

## THE IMPORTANCE OF STATISTICAL RECORD IN THE USE OF CD-ROM DATABASE RESOURCES IN KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, SAMARU, ZARIA.

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### ABSTRACT

This paper tries to look into the importance of the statistical record in the usage of C.D-ROM database resources in Kashim Ibrahim Library, (KIL) Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU) , Zaria. The paper itemizes and describes the various databases in K.I.L, when it started and where it is located. The paper dwells a bit on the definitions of statistics and importance of statistical record, and then concludes with a few recommendations.

**KEYWORDS:** Statistics, Records, cd Roms, Databases

### INTRODUCTION

The goal of any library, irrespective of type, size or user, is to enable easy accessibility to the available resources and maximize their usage. The means of accomplishing this task is basically through services provision of efficient and effective library devices of which CD-ROM databases search service is one. To determine the quality and importance of such service, the tool to obtain a comprehensive feed\back is known as statistics.

There are several definitions of statistics. Oxford English Dictionary defines it as “numerical facts of data collected and classified”. Statistics to the lay man simply means “a mass of data” where data refers simply to facts put into numerical form. According to Oseni (2002:10), to the statistician, statistics is defined as a science of collecting, computing, analysing, interpreting of data with a particular purpose in view.

Chambers Encyclopedia (1970) also defines the word “statistics to designate collection of data pertaining to matters of importance to a political state, such as population counts, death, tax returns and the amount of internal and external trade in a country. It can be defined as the scientific studies or method of collection organization, summarization, analysing and quantitating data for the purpose of drawing valid conclusion in such a way as to minimize any uncertainty drawn from the data and be able to access the degree of such uncertainty.

With the advent of information technology (IT), the library statistics is adopted as an effective tool for the management appraisal from the organizations that have supported libraries with IT. Equipments, softwares and etc. Records of CD-ROM databases usage are collected on a daily basis.

### WHAT ARE THESE CD-ROM DATABASES

Encarta (2005) defines databases as any collection of data organized for storage in a computer memory or in a CD-ROM and designed for easy access by authorized users. CD-ROM-The compact user read only Memory is an information technology with great potential for libraries in general. Its potential lies in its storage capacity, compact-ness, portability, reduced shelf-space usage and durability. The CD-ROM has been found useful in storing information that do not change over a substantial period of time. CD-ROM combines text graphics, audio and moving images and these can be accessed using multi media facilities. Existing features of CD-ROM are its ability to play a wide repertoire of materials such as books, journals,

Table 1:Databases Used In Kashim Ibrahim Library

Year	Britannica	Encarta	Chemical Abstracts	TEEAL	Wider net	Data On CD	Medline	Wilson applied	British	Ebsco
2002							173	40		
2003		13					246	113		
2004	2000	5000	10				120	20	10	9
2005	3500	8000	59	200	61	55	210	100	30	15
2006	4000	8750	90	210	45	35	99	89	20	60

directories, movies, video and educational materials. Database on CD-ROM are double, has huge storage capacity and retrieval is easy, browsable and fast.

The databases treated in this article, are the modern ones in which the computer is used in storing and retrieving information, with some stored in the CD-ROM format. Databases are modern systems of electronic devices.

CD-ROM will continue to be relevant in our libraries because of its cheap production and maintenance cost.

#### CD-ROM DATABASES IN KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY

Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria is not left out in the use of databases in order to effectively and efficiently enhance information accessibility, organization and delivery. It is quite clear that searching for information using these databases has become inexorably linked to computer technology” Goldfinch (1990). The Kashim Ibrahim Library is undergoing its, full computerization and is nearing completion. This started fully by 2000, and by 2002, this unit of the library, the CD-ROM database section came into full existence. It occupies the ground floor space formerly called the traditional information services Unit. It houses just about fifteen (15) hardwares. As little as this unit seems to be, it attends to about eighty-nine departments (89) of A.B.U. The unit has just three staff, one professional who is the administrative head and two Para-professionals. All the staffs are computer-literate and are also advanced in the use of electronic devices search.

There are laid down principles and policies which guide the unit and just like in any other public services area, users of this unit have always complied and appreciated these policies, thereby making our work less stressful.

These CD-ROM databases cover the following:

TEEAL (The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library) A Rockefeller Foundation initiative, it consists of hundreds of CD-ROMS with full text articles in agricultural literatures that are invaluable to many developing countries with unreliable internet connectivity.

MEDLINE: This is used mainly by students on medical line, it contains more of current abstracts on disciplines like medicine, pharmacy, nursing, vet medicine, microbiology etc.

WILSON APPLIED SCIENCES: This is used mainly by applied science students, also contains more of current abstracts.

CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS: These are abstracts used by applied science students, such as engineering, textile tech. etc.

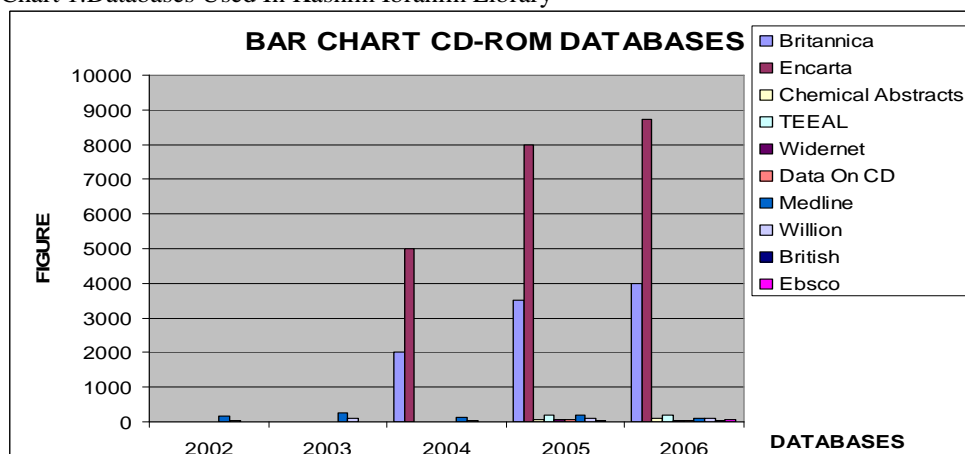
EBSCO: It carries general topics and very rich abstracts.

ENCARTA (2003-2005), BRITANNICA (2003-2005), these are encyclopedia that treat general topics.

BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA, etc.

All these are electronic sources from which the users of Kashim Ibrahim Library, ABU, Zaria retrieve information for their research, projects, assignments and other academic exercise, and accurate statistics are kept on the daily use of these resources

Bar Chart 1:Databases Used In Kashim Ibrahim Library



#### Importance of database statistic

The record of this type of statistics as shown in table 1 and bar chart:1 on pg.3 has exposed a lot of resources to people. It has allowed people to know what databases are available, in K.I.L and this makes comparison of what should be added and what should be deleted. The database statistic has helped to expose the heavily used ones and the ones that seem to be less demanding. This calls for attention to the ones that are used and those that are not.

The statistics of this aspect of service have also revealed the need for more allocation of fund, for the purchase of more hard wares and soft wares for those services. Keeping accurate statistics of this service has helped the librarian in charge to defend whatever query thrown to her by the authorities. Finally, the importance of database statistics has also permitted the setting up of qualitative standards in terms of available resources for quality research.. Today, all over the academic world, research is given maximum attention, therefore whatever available resources that can promote the research power of academic Institutions is given a number one place.

#### CONCLUSION

From time immemorial, data has been collected in libraries, statistics kept, an attempt has been made in this paper to use just table:1 and bar chart:1 to bring out the statistical usage of databases in Kashim Ibrahim Library.

#### RECOMMENDATION

An honest, hardworking, efficient, and trained staff should be assigned to always cross check the daily statistics generated from these services.

- A big notebook for quick, glance of data of these statistics should be provided always when needed.
- More hardware should be added to reduce the queue and fasten the service, so as to save time for the staff and users.
- More computer-trained staff are needed for this aspect of library services and going by the statistics of usage of the earlier listed databases in the Kashim Ibrahim Library, a more spacious accommodation should be provided.

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